a) DNA comprising] a nucleotide sequence from the 190th position to the 807th position of ~~a~~ the nucleotide sequence represented in SEQ[.] ID NO[.]:1 [of Sequence Listing; or

b) DNA which hybridizes to DNA of a) under stringent conditions, and encodes a transcription factor capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein the characters of a plant include one selected from the group consisting of the height of a plant and the length of an internode].

2. (Twice amended). An isolated ~~gene~~ DNA molecule encoding [a transcription factor which is selected from i) or ii):

i)] a transcription factor [having]comprising an amino acid sequence from the 1st position to the 206th position of ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence represented in SEQ[.] ID NO[.]: 2[, or

ii) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids of i) are subjected to deletion, substitution, or addition, and being capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein said amino acid sequence includes CSFCKREFRSAQALGGHMNVH and has more than 37% of amino acid sequence homology in the full-length amino acid sequence compared with the amino acid sequence of i), and wherein the characters of a plant include one selected from the group consisting of the height of a plant and the length of an internode].

~~18~~ 11. (Amended). A method for altering characters of a plant, comprising steps of:

introducing the ~~gene~~ DNA molecule of claim 1 into a plant cell; [and]

regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant; and

selecting the plant having altered characters, wherein the characters of [a]the plant include one selected [prom]from the group consisting of [a] the height of [a]the plant and [a]the length of an internode.

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